base stations to estimate a bearing from the mobile device **10** to the respective base station **30**. The processing circuitry **55** of the server **48** operates also to estimate, using the bearing, a position of the mobile device **10**. Estimation of the position of the apparatus may involve using constraint information that is independent of the radio signals **50**. The estimation may involve determining the position of the mobile device **10** along the bearing **82**. Alternatively or in addition, it may involve using I and Q samples generated by plural base station receiver apparatuses **30** and using triangulation to determine the location of the mobile device **10**.

[0122] The server **48** maintains an allow list **14** and a deny list **15**. The deny list **15** and the allow list **14** are populated based on information received from the base stations **30**, **40-45** and other sources. The deny list **35**D and allow list **35**A stored in the base stations **30**, **40-45** may be copies of the allow list **14** and the deny list **15** that are produced by and stored at the server **48**.

[0123] The deny list **15** includes a number of records, each of which includes an identifier or address relating to a different mobile device, for instance one of the mobile devices **10**, **46**, **47**. Some or all of the records may also include a time field, including a time value. The time value may relate to a time at which the record was added to the deny list **15**. Alternatively, the time may indicate an expiry time of the record. If no time value is included in a record, the record can be considered to be permanently present in the deny list, although it can be removed. Records may be added to the deny list **15** by an administrator or an external system, for instance. The inclusion of a record on the deny list **15** prevents the bearing/location of the identified mobile device **10**, **46**, **47** being determined by the server **48**.

[0124] The allow list **14** allows a number of records, each including an identifier or address and a threshold value. Some or all of the records may also include a time value in a time field. The time value may relate to a time at which the record was added to the allow list **14**. Alternatively, the time may indicate an expiry time of the record. The inclusion of a record on the allow list **14** indicates that a beacon signal transmitted by the corresponding mobile device **10**, **46**, **47** has been received relatively recently by one of the base stations **30**, **40-45**. The threshold value determines a minimum power that is needed by a signal received at a base station **30** for I and Q samples of the signal to be sent to the server **48** for processing. The threshold value may, for instance, be dependent on a measured power of a strongest signal received within a predetermined time (if the signal was received prior to the predetermined time, it would be expired). The threshold may for instance be a quantity below the power of the strongest signal. The threshold may be measured in dB, or some other logarithmic scale. The threshold may be 10 dB below the power of the strongest signal.

[0125] The processing circuitry **55** may be any type of processing circuitry. For example, the processing circuitry **55** may be a programmable processor that interprets computer program instructions **13** and processes data. The processing circuitry **55** may include plural programmable processors. Alternatively, the processing circuitry **55** may be, for example, programmable hardware with embedded firmware. The processing circuitry **55** may be a single integrated circuit or a set of integrated circuits (i.e. a chipset). The processing circuitry **55** may also be a hardwired, application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC). The processing circuitry may be termed processing means.

[0126] The processing circuitry **55** is connected to write to and read from the storage device **56**. The storage device **56** may be a single memory unit or a plurality of memory units.

[0127] The storage device **56** may store computer program instructions **13** that, when loaded into processing circuitry **55**, control the operation of the server **48**. The computer program instructions **13** may provide the logic and routines that enables the server **48** to perform the method illustrated in FIG. **5**, described below.

[0128] The computer program instructions **13** may arrive at the server **48** via an electromagnetic carrier signal or be copied from a physical entity **21** such as a computer program product, a memory device or a record medium such as a CD-ROM or DVD.

[0129] Operation of the base station **30** will now be described with reference to the flow chart of FIG. **4**. As a preliminary step, the base station **30** is provided with copies **35**A and **35**D of the deny list **15** and the allow list **14** lists that are produced by and stored at the server **48**.

[0130] Referring to FIG. **4**, operation starts at step S**1** where a positioning signal or positioning beacon is received from the mobile device **10** at the base station **30**. The base station **30** then partially processes the signal to demodulate the identifier from the signal, as explained above with reference to FIG. **2**. The base station **30** also measures the power of the received signal, as explained above. The power may be measured in dB.

[0131] At step S**2**, the base station **30** determines whether the identifier (which constitutes an address) that is demodulated from the received positioning signal is included in the deny list **35**D. On a negative determination, the operation proceeds to step S**3**. Here, the base station **30** determines whether the identifier is included in the allow list **35**A. On a positive determination, the operation proceeds to step S**4**. Here, the base station **30** determines whether the measured power of the received signal exceeds the threshold provided in the record in the allow list **35**A that includes the identifier. The threshold may have a value in dB.

[0132] In response to a positive determination, indicating that the received signal is nearly as powerful as or more powerful than a recently received signal with the highest power, the operation proceeds to step S**5**. Here, a positioning packet including the I and Q samples is formed by the message former **27** and sent to the server **48**. Following step S**5**, the base station **30** updates the deny and allow lists **35**A, **35**D at step S**6**. Following step S**6**, the operation proceeds again to await a new positioning signal at step S**1**.

[0133] In response to a positive determination from step S**2**, the I and Q samples are discarded at step S**7** and the operation proceeds to step S**6**.

[0134] In response to a negative determination from step S**4**, the I and Q samples are discarded at step S**8** and the operation proceeds to step S**6**.

[0135] Step S**6** involves updating the deny and allow lists **35**A, **35**D to remove entries or records that have expired. For instance, where the deny and allow lists **35**A, **35**D include expiry times in time fields, step S**6** involves deleting records where the value in the time field is in the past. Where the time fields of the deny and allow lists **35**A, **35**D include start times, step S**6** may involve adding a validity time to the start time and determining whether the result of the addition is in the past. The validity time may be different for records in the deny list **35**D than for records in the allow list **35**A. For instance, the validity time for records in the allow list **35**A may be of the